

# **SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL**

October 14, 2009

Cherry-Beasley Readiness Center, Winchester

---

Panel Attendance: Paula Burnette, Eric Casey, Bob Crouch, Mike Hardy, Cathie Hutchins, Kay Goss, Tom Hennessey, Kelly Hobbs, Jim Horton, Algie Howell, John Knapp, Dario Marquez, John Marshall, Marcus Martin, Bob Mauskapf, Leigh Middleditch, Michael Neuhard, Len Pomata, Jeff Rezin, Norris Royston, Beverly Sherwood, Henry Stanley.

## **WELCOME**

Bob Crouch opened the meeting by thanking panel members for attending and the National Guard for their hospitality.

Major General Robert B. Newman, Jr. and Lieutenant Colonel William Zana briefed the panel on Virginia's newest armory, which serves as the home for the Headquarters Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The Armory was dedicated and named in honor of Staff Sergeant Craig W. Cherry and Sergeant Bobby E. Beasley, two Virginia Army National Guard soldiers killed in the line of duty while serving in Afghanistan in 2004.

The new armory is five times larger than the old Winchester Armory, efficient and modern. The operations center within the Armory was named in honor of Senator John Warner.

Lieutenant Colonel Zana presented Delegate Sherwood with his commander's coin in appreciation of her support, commenting that she attends every public event sponsored by the Guard in the local community. Delegate Sherwood welcomed the panel to Winchester.

Mr. Crouch asked for a moment of silence for two members of the emergency preparedness community who recently passed away (Jim Shell and George Thomas) and for Staff Sergeant Craig W. Cherry and Sergeant Bobby E. Beasley.

Mr. Crouch announced the next Secure Commonwealth Panel meeting as December 16, 2009, in the Patrick Henry Building. Main topic of discussion will be on the panel's accomplishments. Governor Kaine has been invited and the new transition team will also receive an invitation to attend.

## **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION OVERVIEW**

Bob Crouch and Janet Clements, Department of Emergency Management

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.

A panel member requested an update on the Behavior Study at the December meeting.

### **ALL HAZARDS CONSORTIUM OVERVIEW**

Tom Moran, Executive Director

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.

A panel member requested a North Anna/Surry status report at the December meeting.

### **PRIVATE SECURITY OVERVIEW**

Dario Marquez and Leon Baker, Department of Criminal Justice Services

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.

The recommendations outlined in the PowerPoint were approved by the panel (the Chair called for a motion to adopt - Eric Casey approved - John Knapp seconded the motion - all members were in favor of adoption) with a stipulation voiced by Leigh Middleditch that the Attorney General's Office review.

### **READY VIRGINIA**

Bob Spieldenner, Department of Emergency Management

- Please see PowerPoint presentation and the National Preparedness Month activities handout.

### **VIRGINIA INTEROPERABLE PICTURE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE (VIPER)**

Bobbi Atristain, Department of Emergency Management

Ms. Atristain provided an update on the new features of VIPER, which won the "IT as the Efficiency Driver" award at this year's COVITZ Conference.

- 20 countries and the CIA are interested in VIPER.
- Local emergency operations centers across the Commonwealth are working in VIPER.
- Additions to the system include: Twitter, National Weather Service forecast, extended traffic camera reach (Outer Banks), Department of Education provided new school information, added pet shelters, H1N1 situational reports, feeds from 911 centers (provided by an Internet page), and a secured site for Search and Rescue information.
- Next steps: secure grant money and have VIPER used in all Virginia localities. Also try to establish VIPER use on handheld blackberries.

### **EDUCATION WORKING GROUP**

Dr. Priscilla Norton, George Mason University

Kay Goss and Curtis Brown met with Dr. Norton through the facilitation of Secure Commonwealth Panel member and George Mason University administrator Tom

Hennessy to discuss the Secure Commonwealth Panel's interest in a strategy for developing a K-12 Culture of Preparedness. Dr. Norton has an innovative online teacher training concept which the Panel endorsed for development. George Mason University is providing initial concept development funding and DHS funding will be sought if the project continues to move forward.

- Please see handout.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUB PANEL REPORT**

Bob Mauskopf, Department of Health

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.

## **FIRST RESPONDERS SUB PANEL REPORT**

Colonel Henry W. Stanley, Jr.

### Interoperability Update:

- 7 Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees for Interoperability meetings were held in late September and early October. The Regions are making plans for 2010 funding for equipment, planning, training and exercises. The 2010 projects will be discussed at the December meetings.
- Awaiting the Governor's announcement of the awards for the 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Program funding.
- Interoperability Conference with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the National Emergency Number Association is scheduled for October 27-30.
- Federal legislation has been submitted to extend the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant deadline from 2010 to 2012.

### Emergency Operations Update:

Nothing to report – getting geared up for the Winter Storm Season.

### Virginia Fusion Center Update:

- The Virginia Fusion Center is down in people by about 35% - 9 people – makes it tough to manage all the work.
- Sending out a daily tactical brief based on stakeholder feedback.
- Also going to a monthly intelligence product.
- Urban Area Security Initiative Grants will support one analyst in the 5<sup>th</sup> division. This provides tactical support out in the field.

### Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Update:

- First responder status – requested that the Sub Panel table the issue for now because it is being discussed at the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials international level and they will let us know the results of those discussions.

#### Department of Criminal Justice Services Update:

- Awarded \$7.4M from Department of Homeland Security to 9 local bomb squads for equipment and training.
- Will announce shortly, \$1.9M to local law enforcement agencies collaborating in the regional crime information sharing networks. More than 97% of local departments will be a network partner by early 2010.
- Later this month, the Law Enforcement Command Advisory Group will meet to discuss distribution of a \$5M grant to purchase incident response vehicles and license plate recognition systems.

#### Virginia Fire Chiefs Update:

- Working through the Governor's Office to address the issue of vaccinations.

#### Virginia Police Chiefs Update:

- All Chiefs are pleased with the Department of Criminal Justice Services grant process – getting a say in what the priorities are across the state.

#### Strategic Planning Discussion:

- Review strategic planning process components - current state (updates), future state (strategic plan goals), the case for change, the barriers, and the strategy.
- Review Commonwealth of Virginia Preparedness Strategic Plan components related to this Sub Panel.
- Outline an action plan for the First Responder Sub Panel to achieve progress towards strategic plan goals, which includes identification of specific, measurable objectives for the coming year.
- Big issue in the Fusion Center is concern over Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The Virginia Fusion Center has the ability to be exempt from FOIA for 1 year, and 1 year only. Would like to make the case for a longer period of time relative to sensitive criminal investigative matters.

New Business: How are budget cuts affecting public safety agencies – ex Hazardous Materials Teams? What steps are needed to ensure critical needs are not affected?

### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUB PANEL REPORT**

Leigh Middleditch

Membership has increased to 150 members. At the last meeting of the Sub Panel, members discussed how they are dealing with H1N1 within their organizations. Concerns

include: having a plan to encourage ill workers to stay home, accessing computer systems at home, leave policies, H1N1 and the American with Disabilities Act and OSHA requirements.

The Department of Emergency Management will be the lead agency in procuring software for the credentialing program (Issuance of identification to businesses entering affected areas following a disaster.).

Education Task Force is working with Virginia Commonwealth University to develop a web-based education program for small businesses on continuity of operations planning.

Piedmont Community College will be offering a business continuity of operations class this spring.

## **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION SUB PANEL REPORT**

John Knapp

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Bob Crouch thanked all members and guests for attending.